

**REGULAR MEETING
MAY 21, 2012**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, May 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Present: Councilors Drake, Kotkin, Manousos, Montinieri, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Console, and Chairperson Hemmann. Absent: Councilors Hurley and McAlister.

Also present: Kathy Bagley, Director, Park and Recreation; Chandler Rose, Assessor; Tim Howes, Board of Education; Kate Fourcier, Director Wethersfield Housing Authority; John Morris, Chairperson of Energy Committee, Peter Huckins, Small Cities Grant; RaeAnn Palmer, Assistant Town Manager; Jeff Bridges, Town Manager and Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk.

Councilor Kotkin led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

Chairperson Hemmann asked for public comments on the first two (2) hearing items:

1. **TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR A SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT OF \$500,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO WETHERSFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY”**
2. **“TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM INCOME REUSE PLAN”**

PUBLIC COMMENTS {hearing}

Peter Huckins, 16 Washburn Street, Willimantic, CT. Mr. Huckins, the consultant for the Town to write the small cities grant, presented the submittal for a \$500,000 application for small cities for improvements to the James Devlin Senior Housing Complex. Mr. Huckins reported that the grant was for a 50-unit housing complex with 50 residents right now housed of which 41 are 30% low-medium income and 9 are 50% low-medium income. He explained the proposed scope of work is to replace the roofs, the siding, upgrade the alarm system and do some renovations to the administrative building. Mr. Huckins stated that this is a well-worth project for the town to keep the residents in their housing. He added that the building was built in 1972 and has not had any renovations since then; and is in dire need of roofs and siding. He stated there is no money to get new windows, but he hopes to get to a bid and see if they can replace at least some of them. Mr. Huckins reported the housing authority is putting in approximately \$175,000 to this project as leverage to the small cities grant.

Kate Fourcier, Executive Director of the Housing Authority commented that she was definitely in support of this project and agreed with Mr. Huckins that the property is old and hasn't been renovated in quite a while. She added they would like to continue operating this facility for low income seniors and individuals. Ms. Fourcier also spoke about wrapping up the 2010 grant. She stated that they have extended most of those funds and the Housing Authority is out to bid and about to complete that project by replacing kitchen cabinets, counters, sinks, and windows at the Harvey Fuller Apartments.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., arrived late and missed the presentation and asked how many units are in this senior community center and questioned how much they were spending on the project.

Mayor Hemmann responded that there are 50 units and restated that the total amount was \$675,000 and that there is a match that the Housing Authority will be giving in the amount of \$175,000.

Mr. Young asked if they had enough funds to take care of their own property instead of going to the state for money. He questioned why they were not using the rent money collected over the years to pay for these renovations or use left-over program income money. A discussion then ensued regarding program income money, and funding available for the project. Mr. Young then added that the Town should take care of their buildings and save money over time to make the renovations necessary for the buildings in lieu of borrowing money from the government. Mr. Young also stressed his concern over borrowing money and urged the council not to pass the resolution.

Chairperson Hemmann asked for public comments on the next three (3) hearing items:

1. **"TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT TO OBTAIN 52.50% REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE HANMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIRE ALARM PROJECT"**
2. **"TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF OVERSIGHT OF THE HANMER SCHOOL FIRE ALARM PROJECT"**
3. **"TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FRIAR ASSOCIATES TO PREPARE SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED HANMER SCHOOL FIRE ALARM PROJECT"**

PUBLIC COMMENTS {hearing}

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Cir., commented that he was concerned about the fact that during the recent referendum, there was a great deal of talk about another project coming down the pike regarding Hanmer School. He stated that if this was going to be something significant and equivalent to Wethersfield High School but on a smaller scale, it would be less than wise to spend a fair amount of money and effort now. Mr. Ruhe added that the school is so old that it is

unwise to undertake this project at this time. He suggested making the investment if the project comes up at a more appropriate time. He also commented that setting up a building committee for an electrical wiring project seems a bit of overkill.

Jeff Bridges commented that the building committee is the current building committee. The resolution introduced is a simple action for the state to identify the building committee we are using. The original High School/Hanmer building committee formed in 2008 will be the committee that monitors this project and that is what this resolution does. Mr. Bridges added that the fire alarm system was identified as a problem almost two years ago by the fire marshal because the company that was providing support was not able to do it anymore. He also stated that he cannot think of anything worse than having a fire alarm system that doesn't work in an elementary school. It was put into the 2010 budget as a capitol improvement to replace the fire alarm system at Hanmer School. The anticipated construction of modification to Hanmer doesn't play to the fact that the current alarm system is pieced together.

George Ruhe again questioned whether this was the appropriate time to address the fire system issue. He urged Council to think about the timing of it.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., commented that he agreed with Mr. Ruhe regarding his caution on this project. He also urged the Council to find ways of reducing costs within the town.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave., commented that the Board of Education budget increase is too high and is misleading. He questioned the cost to the taxpayers in the town and the effect on students who will be there during the construction. Mr. Colantonio also noted a letter that he received for a sidewalk assessment of \$500, which was past due and payable as of October 4, 2010. He discussed his concerns with the Council regarding the assessment and stated that he refuses to pay the assessment until he receives a letter from the town attorney explaining the past due fees. He stated that the sidewalk on Morrison Avenue was not a repair, but a full reconstruction as the direction of the walk is now changed. He also commented that it is completely unfair as other property owners in Town have not had to pay for sidewalks on their property.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., commented that he agrees with Mr. Colantonio regarding construction of sidewalks in town and why some property owners have to pay for them while others do not. He commented on the full-day kindergarten and questioned how many children would actually be attending. Mr. Young stated that he finds it disturbing on how taxes keep cranking up. He spoke of kids continuing their college education to get jobs, the cost associated with that education and the lack of jobs available in Connecticut. He spoke of the 8% unemployment and how we cannot create jobs in CT for them. He commented the Wethersfield Housing Authority loses a lot of money for the town and should pay the same percentage of tax as the rest of us.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Cir., commented he was a little surprised that the budget was passed a week earlier than the Charter deadline. Mr. Ruhe also complimented the staff busy working on the Cloverdale Pond. He stated that the tree truck caught his attention and felt there was more emphasis placed on reimbursement capability versus the real need for the truck.

Kate Fourcier, Executive Director of the Wethersfield Housing Authority, commented that the housing authority does pay a pilot instead of regular taxes and that is based on the state statutes not because the town is committing that to happen and stressed that it is a state law. She explained that the housing authority is not able to charge market rents because we serve low income people and so would never be able to save the money that the company who manages market rate housing would be able to save. Ms. Fourcier added that the one-bedroom houses they rent for \$200-\$300 on private market, would go for \$800 or \$900. She explained that if they had that kind of income stream, certainly they could afford to be able to save for capitol means for the buildings. She stated that they house 112 elderly and disabled low income families and we need to step up as a society, that is our job. Ms. Fourcier continued explaining that this is a country-wide problem that we have that shouldn't be blamed on Wethersfield or the State.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Manousos reported that the Budget and Finance Committee met and discussed some bond refunding opportunity which would save us somewhere over \$400,000 depending on the interest rates at the time the transaction is actually completed. He explained that because those savings are related to the current interest rates, we are introducing the resolution tonight to authorize the bond refunding and will know our actual savings in a few weeks as we go through the process. Councilor Manousos added that the budget/finance committee agreed to do this refunding and the only item we need to decide is how to structure the savings from the refunding. Either spread that savings over the life of the bonds or to frontload those savings and structure so we can flatten out the peaks of our debt as we are going to see an increase with the high school renovation. He stated that this is something we can get budget/finance to come back with a recommendation.

They also talked about some bond ratings and the effect of what parameter would change our bond ratings in town and variables that affect that rating which include the percent of the fund balance to expenditures, our debt service ratio and the growth in our fund balance. He believes that in the coming years, starting this year, we will see that increase and that is going to help our bond rating.

Councilor Drake reported that the infrastructure met last week and he hoped to approve the RFP for Wilkus Farm tonight. He stated that once approved, it will get out next week and we should see some responses and will try to sell that property. He also added that the Building Committee met last week to get the high school project going. He stated the request for a construction manager is out to bid and the architect is starting to get on board and we are shooting for the June 30th deadline and added that the whole project is under way at this point.

Councilor Kotkin reported that the Insurance Committee had a brief meeting last week; Wethersfield continues to run well below budget in terms of the cost of our health insurance claims. He reported the projection now is they are going to finish the year at about \$1.2 million below budget. He believes this is the most ever under budget. He wanted to congratulate Jeff in the Town Hall who worked for us which is a smaller group of about \$900,000 below budget this year. He added that the town insurance fund had quite a bit of money in it--about \$3 million dollars and stated that this actually plays over to one of the subjects that Councilor Manousos will be reporting on at a future meeting, which is we continue to essentially fund our retiree health benefits just out of our year-to-year operating budget. Councilor Kotkin noted, however, that those obligations are going to grow over the years and one of things that we are going to be looking at, as a Council, is socking away some of this money—some of the money that is in the insurance fund and investing it to provide for future retirees, which would help hold the line on some future costs for future taxpayers in town.

Mayor Hemmann reported that she attended the Housing Authority meeting last week and there was a presentation by a young man looking to provide an interim type of program through his studies with other college students and/or professors to really deliver some programmatic classes to residents on different topics. Mayor Hemmann commented that it is very interesting and is in the beginning stages but was very nice to hear his interest and willingness to step forward.

Mayor Hemmann reported that she attended the Shade Tree Commission and noted that the tree crew continues to work on inspecting the trees that were damaged and will be working closely with this state as they come through to do their trimming which will begin shortly.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Manousos commented that he also thought the Housing Authority was taking a lot of hits tonight and further expressed his feelings on comments that were made by Mr. Young regarding the housing authority taxes and seniors, underprivileged kids, and the lack of property taxes being paid to offset their education costs. Councilor Manousos stated that he found the comments troubling, discriminatory, and very anti-family.

Councilor Manousos commented on the town's budget, stating that over the last three years, he believes they have had probably the most responsible and reasonable budgets on average that he's seen and what people have told them in the recent past. He stated that of the last three years, the average has been about 1.8% in an average increase in our budget which is well below the average rate of inflation and he feels that that seems to go unnoticed. Councilor Manousos next commented on the high school renovation stating there has been some comments about it and stated that he agrees it will increase property taxes and property values for the town because people will want to move into town and there will be a greater demand for homes in a town that is investing in an education system to make it first class, and that includes all-day kindergarten as well. He noted the budget process of May 15th is just a deadline and was unsure if it is a requirement to have it completed on that date, and commented that we were done early and we approved it.

Councilor Roberts commented that she was glad that Ms. Fourcier was here tonight to clear up a lot of the issues that kept getting raised repeatedly as well as some misinformation, and thought it was helpful to have her here to straighten it all out.

Councilor Roberts asked a question of Mr. Turner regarding a patch that exists now on Fox Hill Rd. which was redone just a few years ago. She commented on how we get these roads redone and within a short amount of time somebody is digging them up again, putting a cable through or a natural gas line. Councilor Roberts suggested there should be a better system where we can better predict that and make them come up with an alternative method.

Councilor Roberts reported that on Saturday, the Memorial Day Parade is in town and starts at 9:00 a.m. She stated that the honorees this year are James Griswold and Angela Pallone. She also noted that the parade is welcoming home veterans and urged people to come out and show their support.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bridges had no items to report.

TOWN CLERK'S COMMUNICATONS

Dolores Sassano reported that a complaint was filed with the State Elections Enforcement Commission for explanatory text. She stated that it is being addressed by our attorney, Michael Collins from Halloran-Sage. Ms. Sassano also reported that a Board of Ethics Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday night so the new committee can elect their officers. She reported that Michael Collins will review rules of practice and code of ethics that are in place already. He will also discuss the ethics violation complaint read by Mr. Miele at the May 7th meeting. Ms. Sassano reported that she met with the Registrars of Voters to discuss issues to be addressed for the August 14th primary and the November 6th election, in particular. She also noted the new assistant town clerk will be attending a session on elections this Friday at Central Connecticut State College for the CT Town Clerks Association.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Manousos moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF ANDREW S. ADIL, 944 RIDGE ROAD, FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION EFFECTIVE MAY 21, 2012"** seconded by Jeff Kotkin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Manousos moved **"TO APPOINT GEORGE J. KELLEY, 369 HARTFORD AVENUE, TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE TERM MAY 21, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012"** seconded by Jeff Kotkin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Drake moved **“TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR A SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT OF \$500,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO WETHERSFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY”** seconded by Manousos.

Mr. Bridges stated that in the past, the town has applied for small cities for community development block grants which are flow-through funds from the federal government to local units of government to compete to provide for things that need a certain federal government purpose, such as low-moderate income support to housing authorities, housing rehab for certain income levels and communities. He explained that in the past, the town has used these grants to provide housing rehab for individual residents, however, given the condition of the housing authority and working with Kate on her goal to upgrade these facilities, the town last year and this year is requesting the council apply on their behalf for grants to upgrade those facilities so the town staff supports this grant as it goes forward. A discussion then ensued with Kate Fourcier and Council members regarding the construction phase, other loans and grants available from the Governor, and the use of Connecticut contractors for the job.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Drake moved **“TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM INCOME REUSE PLAN”** seconded by Manousos.

Mr. Bridges stated that as part of any CDBG grant application, the local community applying needs to adopt a program reuse plan. Mr. Bridges explained that it is not an individual plan and it is not specific to its grant, but it is a kind of generic plan that has to get adopted whenever you apply for any type of housing rehab plan. He further explained that this one talks about if there is any money coming back and how do we use it. Mr. Bridges added that in this particular instance, the money will be fully expended by the housing authority, so we do not anticipate program income from this particular grant, but the plan still has to be adopted.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION CONCERNING AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT TO OBTAIN 52.50% REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE HANMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIRE ALARM PROJECT”** seconded by Commissioner Drake.

Mr. Bridges stated that in the 2011 Capital Improvement Program adopted with the budget, \$100,000 was put aside to repair and replace the alarm system at Hanmer School. He explained this was the result of several meetings with the fire marshal, board staff, and town staff on the condition of the alarm and what is necessary to keep the alarm system viable. Mr. Bridges

reported a full replacement was necessary due to the inability to get parts and basic unreliability of the system. He added that moving forward, in order to be a school construction project and seek reimbursement which we are eligible for as a replacement program, the town needs to adopt certain actions, one of which is this particular resolution which authorizes us to prepare our application to the state for reimbursement. A discussion then ensued with Tim Howes from the Board of Education regarding the delayed response time for this upgrade from 2010.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A BUILDING COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF OVERSIGHT OF THE HANMER SCHOOL FIRE ALARM PROJECT”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Mr. Bridges stated that the state requires a resolution to establish a Building Committee, our building committee has been established since 2008, and basically identifying the current High School/Hanmer Building Committee. Mr. Bridges explained that the state has some different requirements and they wanted a particular resolution worded a particular way.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FRIAR ASSOCIATES TO PREPARE SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED HANMER SCHOOL FIRE ALARM PROJECT”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Mr. Bridges stated that this, again, is a state requirement that work has already been done, so this resolution will be attached to that work and be submitted back to the state that was approved by the building committee some time ago.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO ADOPT MOTION TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERTOWN CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASE INCENTIVE PROGRAM REQUEST FOR A TREE TRUCK WITH THE TOWNS OF NEWINGTON, ROCKY HILL AND BERLIN”** seconded by Councilor Drake.

Mr. Bridges reported that the town included in its budget for next year, the purchase of a new tree truck. He stated that we currently serve Newington to contract the 25% of our costs are paid for by the town of Newington and we provide support to them in the terms of tree services. There are grants available for inter-town cooperation to buy equipment and given our mid-state to cooperative with five towns, we've stepped to two others, Berlin and Rocky Hill to see if there is an interest in bargaining with us on some grant opportunities for the truck. The actual amount of

time the truck is used per municipality, Rocky Hill and Berlin will not be using it that much, so the percentage share of costs would have to be negotiated and agreed to if the grant is awarded. He stated that we intend to purchase the truck anyway because the current one is from 1988 and it is not sufficient for our needs at this time. But the grant is an opportunity to have some of the costs offset and to act regionally in cooperation with our neighboring towns. A discussion then ensued regarding the benefits of working cooperatively with neighboring towns. Mr. Bridges stated that the old truck would go to auction.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Drake moved **“TO APPROVE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF 1.86 ACRES OF LAND KNOWN AS THE WILKUS HOUSE AND BARN IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 37-5 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Mr. Bridges stated that last year the Town Council amended Chapter 37 which deals with the town's process by which it disposes of property to allow for a request for proposal process rather than a straight sale process or price process. He stated the town staff and town attorney has prepared a request for proposal instructions for the Council to review and act on and if acted on this evening, will get them out. He explained the calendar timeframe for the process is included along with a map showing the proposed land for sale and the land for lease. Mr. Bridges added all the environmental reports and other information is on the website as well as the request for proposal that people will have access to. He also stated that if the Council wishes to use the request for proposal process it would be 2/3 vote of the council to do so, rather than a straight best price sale.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 6-0-1 Councilor Manousos abstained.

Mayor Deputy Console moved **“TO APPROVE A MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO MARKETING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD AND DIRECT ENERGY SERVICES CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE TOWN ATTORNEY”**, seconded by Councilor Drake.

Energy Committee Chairperson John Morris answered Councilors questions and they elected to go with DIRECT ENERGY SERVICES. They are the only company providing a civic contribution to their knowledge. The billing rate is \$.0670 per kWh and .0660 per kWh for seniors and .0680 per kWh for a renewable energy product.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

BIDS

Councilor Drake moved **“TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VISION GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS, INC FOR REVALUATION SERVICES”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Town Manager Bridges asked Assessor Chandler Rose to make the presentation to the Council; Mr. Rose stated that the Town did receive 5 proposals for the revaluation work. Using past experience and the data already in their system he recommended going with Vision Government Solutions. This is the third time with this company as it was formerly known as Vision Appraisal. Theirs was the lowest price because of their previous experiences with the Town. They have been dependable, coming in on time and under budget. Within the last 5 years they have done over 78 surveys and a large number of municipalities use their software.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Manousos moved **“TO AUTHORIZE A CHANGE ORDER TO THE DALTON TRACK & TENNIS PURCHASE ORDER FOR TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURT REPAIR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,975 FOR WORK AT STANDISH PARK”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

Town Manager Bridges invited Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks & Recreation to explain the request to Council.

Ms. Bagley stated that she has a purchase order for \$19,700 for work previously requested for other areas and she would like to increase by \$4,975 for a total of \$24,675 placing it under the budgeted CIP amount for \$25,000. Because it is now a purchase over \$20,000 the threshold for items to go to Council, she is asking for their approval. They noticed the bad weather this past Fall did more damage than they realized.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, APPOINTMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$8,000,000 REFUNDING BONDS FOR PAYMENT IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF THE OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST AND ANY CALL PREMIUM ON THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD’S \$3,500,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2003, AND \$15,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2005, AND FOR COSTS RELATED THERETO

MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Console moved **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2012”** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2012”** seconded by Deputy Mayor Console.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Clynch, 903 Ridge Rd., commented on his frustration with Mr. Manousos' comment regarding the budget increase of 1.8% and does not agree with his reasoning behind it. Secondly, Mr. Clynch commented that he commends them for supporting the elderly housing and hopes he would give the tax paying seniors the same recognition.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave., commented about the senior housing and stated that the money has to come from somewhere. He stated that he is on a fixed income, but the budget is going up all the time.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd. reiterated his feelings regarding the Wethersfield Housing Authority's funds. He commented on how they should have a bundle of money because they have not renovated in a long time and they do not pay as much taxes as the rest of the residents in town. He commented on the tax rate within the community and stated that all people should be paying their fair share of taxes including the housing authority.

George Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Cir., commented that government has a hard time establishing what the priorities should be. He commented that all the commissions are looking for money and nobody knows what is happening on the other side of the fence. Mr. Ruhe added that his concern is that we need to prioritize the money we spend on the more appropriate things.

Barbara Ruhe, 79 Main St., commented that this is not the only level of government and that this is the lowest level of government and stated that there are a lot of mandates that federal or state. She added that there are a lot of mandates that a town and a board of education has to do and many of them are unfunded and are not controlled at the local level. She stated that we need to pay more attention to our state legislature. She stated that we need to go up there and get involved. She also stated that it is easy to complain and challenges people to track what they do and to go up there and complain because that is where there are some of the very significant problems.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 p.m., Councilor Manousos moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Kotkin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk
Approved by Vote of Council
May 4, 2012